GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
WATER POLLUTION DUE TO DUMPING OF DRUG RESIDUES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dumping of residues by Drug Companies has polluted water at Patancheru in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh as reported in the Times of India, dated 27 January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted to find out the level of water contamination in this area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) The article published in The Times of India issue dated 27.01.2009 on 'Drug wast creates disaster zone − World's Highest Pharma Levels in Andhra Streams' and "Discharge from waste water plants could spawn drug resistance: Study" is based upon a report attributed to J. Larsson, an environmental scientist from Sweden, published on July 6, 2007 in the 'Journal of Hazardous Materials'. The said report mentions high levels of 'Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients' (API) in the effluent of the Patancheru common effluent treatment plant (CETP), which is apprehended to contaminate the surface water streams as well as ground water. The Patancheru CETP is not able to adequately treat the waste water so as to meet regularly the standards of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Chlorides, Sulphates, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Ammonical Nitrogen. The treated effluent from the CETP is being discharged to Isakavagu stream.

(e) The following actions have been taken by the Government in this regard:

(i) Directions have been issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB).

(ii) The Joint Action Plan by CPCB and APPCB is being implemented.

(iii) A penalty of Rs.2,32,62,000/- has been imposed on the CETP operator and Bank guarantee of Rs 50 lakhs furnished by the CETP operator has been invoked by the APPCB.

(iv) The CETP has been directed by APPCB not to accept any industrial waste water with TDS greater that 5000 mg/litre after 01.02.09.

(v) 18 kilometer pipeline from the CETP to Amberpet Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has been completed.